

attaching the inner opening of the blank seal to an attachment region of a holder having an outer dimension that corresponds to an average outer dimension of a plurality of the ceramic filter elements;

forming a finished seal by processing the outer surface of the blank seal attached to the holder so that the outer surface attains a nominal size;

attaching the finished seal to at least one of the rod ends; and

assembling the attached finished seal into a finished membrane module.

*Handwritten signature/initials*

11. (Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the at least one of the rod ends has a smaller dimension than a main region of the at least one ceramic filter element.

12. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the at least one of the rod ends is reinforced at least on a surface so that there is no contact between the medium and the finished seal during operation of the membrane module.

13. (Amended) A membrane module for filtering a medium to at least yield a permeate, the membrane module produced according to a process including:

forming a blank seal by making an inner opening of a seal to a finished size for enclosing a rod end of a rod ceramic filter element, while an outer surface of the seal remains unprocessed;

attaching the inner opening of the blank seal to an attachment region of a holder having an outer dimension that corresponds to an average outer dimension of a plurality of the ceramic filter elements;

forming a finished seal by processing an outer surface of the blank seal attached to the holder so that the outer surface attains a nominal size; and

attaching the finished seal to at least one rod end.

wherein the membrane module comprises:

a plurality of the ceramic filter elements arranged parallel to one another;  
and

covers clamping the rod ends, wherein the covers are perpendicular to the ceramic filter elements, and are the components of a housing which encloses the ceramic filter elements; and

the finished seal provided between the ends of the rods and openings in the covers.

14. (Amended) A membrane module according to claim 13, wherein the rod ends are the same size as a main part of the ceramic filter element.

15. (Amended) A membrane module according to claim 13, wherein the rod ends are reinforced at least on a periphery so that the medium to be filtered cannot come into contact with the finished seal.

16. (Amended) The membrane module according to claim 13, further comprising a permeate outlet connection arranged on the housing such that an inside space of the housing is completely emptied of permeate when the module is not in operation.

17. (Amended) The membrane module according to claim 13, wherein each cover comprises an outer plate, an inner plate and the finished seal enclosed between the inner and outer plates, a free space is provided radially outside the finished seal between the outer plate and the inner plate, and the finished seal is reinforced on a periphery such that extension of the finished seal into the free space when the outer plate and the inner plate are clamped together is hindered.

18. (Amended) The membrane module according to claim 17, further comprising a collar surrounding the finished seal in a region of the free space.